

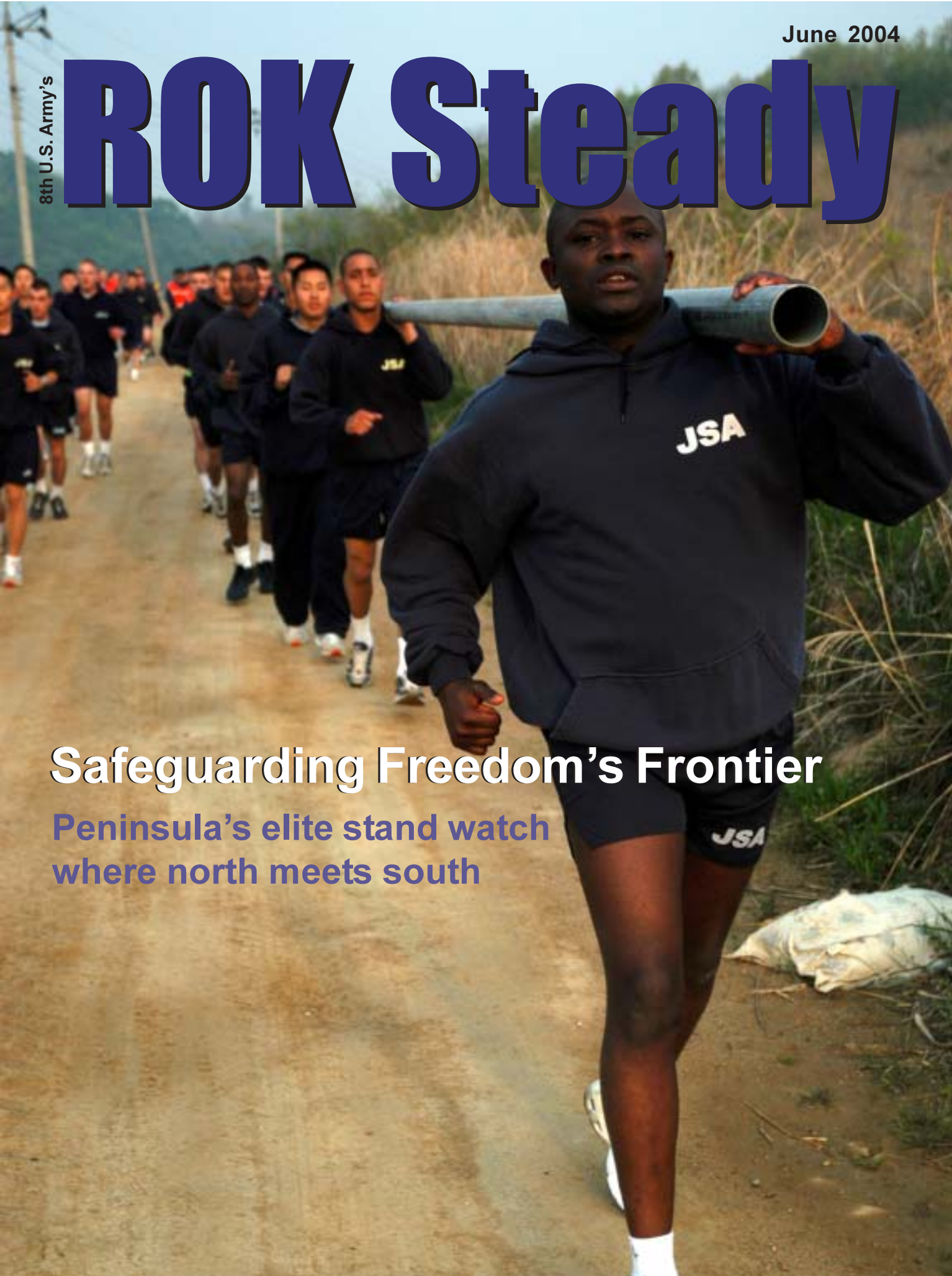
June 2004

8th U.S. Army's

# ROK Steady

**Safeguarding Freedom's Frontier**

Peninsula's elite stand watch  
where north meets south





**A Joint Security Area guard watches North Korean soldiers as tourists view the inside of the peace village. Approximately 150,000 visitors tour the JSA each year. Photo by Spc. Daniel J. Love.**



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A Soldier with the JSA headquarters and headquarters company shoulders the load during a physical training session May 6. Soldiers must meet high physical fitness standards to qualify to serve at the JSA. *Photo by Spc. Daniel Love*

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# ROK Steady



JSA guards watch tourists and soldiers on the North Korean side of Panmunjeom. Less than 10,000 tourists visit the North Korean side annually. Photo by Spc. Daniel J. Love

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# JSA shift of responsibility a historic event

by Lt. Gen. Charles C. Campbell

Commander, 8th U.S. Army

Recently I had the honor of visiting the Joint Security Area at Camp Bonifas to preside over the change of command ceremony of an outstanding combined unit with a great and unique history.

For more than 50 years the JSA Battalion has represented and continues to represent today the very essence of the commitment of the United States, Republic of Korea, and the United Nations Command to the defense of democracy and freedom on the Korean peninsula.

On May 5, 1952, the United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission Support Group (Provisional) was organized with five officers and 10 enlisted Soldiers.

In 1954, it then became the United Nations Command Security Group ... their mission was to provide security of Panmunjom as well as for all the meetings that were being held during those early years ... much as they do today.

Then in 1991, a major change took place with the removal of the 2nd Infantry Division from the DMZ patrol mission. At that point, the Joint Security Battalion added another critical mission ... to provide security patrols within its area of responsibility in the DMZ. That mission, as well as all the other missions, continues today.

The reason I talked briefly about their history as they have changed over the years is that there is more change in store for the battalion in the near future. As all of you know, we are in the midst of change here on the peninsula.

The combined battalion stands right now at 60% ROK and 40% U.S. Army with a U.S. commander and a ROK deputy commander ... ROK and U.S. Soldiers standing side by side 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, on the most heavily armed border anywhere in the world. It's the essence of "katshi kapshida" ... "we go together."

This battalion will change yet again in the near future as our great alliance has matured and changed over the course of more than 50 years of partnership.

In the next several months, the battalion will become 93 percent ROK army

and 7 percent U.S. Army, with a U.S. commander and a ROK deputy commander, continuing in the great traditions of their history and heritage of service to our two great nations.

This is yet another symbol of the ROK's desire to assume greater responsibility for the defense of the nation at a time when the world is full of uncertainty. I applaud the efforts of the great soldiers of the JSA and wish them continued success on their important mission here in the Republic of Korea.



Campbell



Spc. Daniel J. Love

**A ROK JSA guard stands at "ROK Ready," a martial arts preparation stance, while guarding within Panmunjeom.**



# 501<sup>st</sup> MI Bde makes history with AAME results

By Pfc. Jason A. Merrell

501st MI Bde. PAO

Excellence is not something that is easily exemplified. It involves going above and beyond the standard and doing more than what is already expected, sometimes to get nothing more than self-satisfaction. The Soldiers of the 501st Military Intelligence Brigade not only achieved this level of excellence but now carry with them the knowledge that they have reached a level of excellence the United States Army has never seen.

"It all started with a vision," said Maj. Terrence Murrill, 532nd MI Battalion executive officer.

In June 2003, Col. Mary A. Legere, 501st MI Brigade commander, approached her newly arrived battalion



executive officers with her guidance and goals during a meeting. One of the things she mentioned was that she wanted the entire brigade to compete in a competition called the Army Award for Maintenance Excellence.

Several months later, that vision became a reality when each unit within the brigade

not only participated as a finalist in the AAME competition, but also placed as either winner, or runner-up in each category. In the 22 years of the AAME's existence, no other unit has been able to do the same.

"She didn't want to do this for the purpose of just competing, or winning, or bringing popularity to the brigade, she wanted it to better the maintenance program," said Murrill, "In a way, though, you already win by competing. Just the fact that you put a conscious, concerted effort together to compete, just by virtue of preparing, the maintenance program is better."

According to Master Sgt. Dennis A. McComas, maintenance sergeant for the 501st, the outstanding maintenance excellence of the 501st MI Brigade began with a program called the Maintenance Terrain Walk. During this program, the brigade commander, along with the battalion commanders, formulated a solid foundation for overall maintenance.

Legere took a hands-on approach in training, coaching and mentoring her leaders with the MTW program. Quarterly, she would make visits to her units to critique and ensure the overall, successful execution of their unit maintenance programs.

Following each visit, company and battalion leadership would share their lessons learned and

the brigade commander's guidance with every other unit within the brigade, thereby strengthening the entire brigade's maintenance program.

"The MTW construct served as our roadmap to AAME. The more iterations the program had within the brigade, the easier that roadmap was to read," said 1st Sgt. Hopeton Staple, 532nd battalion first sergeant.

The basis of the program was to have a progressive understanding of how to achieve maintenance excellence through a single, trialed and tested program.

"I absolutely believe that's what gave us the edge; that mixed with the competitive nature of AAME," said Murrill, "Competition is nothing new to anybody in the Army. For example, playing volleyball for a PT session, the intent may be to do physical training, but somebody wants to win."

For the 527th MI Battalion, placing in the AAME was also nothing new, considering they either came in first or runner-up in their category 10 times in the past 13 years.

"I think it's a just a tremendous accomplishment that the brigade was able to do this as a whole," said Maj. Suzanne C. Nielsen, 527th MI Battalion executive officer.

Another focus the brigade worked on this year that played a key role in its success was making a correlation between maintenance and mission.

"The Soldiers understand how important the mission is, so we focused on helping them understand how important maintenance was to accomplish that mission," said Murrill. "Maintenance isn't just a *part* of the mission, it *enables* the mission."

This focus became integrated into the Soldiers' day-to-day responsibilities, and allowed leadership to help them better understand their role in overall maintenance.

Maintenance excellence was incorporated into every aspect of the brigade. From the barracks to the motor pool, nothing went without the understanding of the importance of maintenance.

"You have to consistently work hard if you want to get anywhere," said Maj. Greg Meyer, 3rd MI Battalion executive officer. "Evaluators can recognize hard work, and they were impressed with our Soldiers."



see AAME, Page 18



From left to right, Capt. Gregorio E. Zayas, Kim, Yeon-soo and Sgt. 1st Class Donald E. DeLaHunt meet for the first time since the accident.

# Soldiers rescue pregnant university professor

**Story & photo by**  
**Pvt. Michael R. Noggle**  
*Staff writer*

**O**n the afternoon of April 20, Capt. Gregorio E. Zayas and Sgt. 1st Class Donald E. DeLaHunt, both with the 164th Air Traffic Services Group, were transferring from one training site to another on Korean Highway 35 when their HMMWV approached an overturned SUV. With no emergency vehicles or other stopped motorists around, the Soldiers responded quickly to the accident.

"We came across the car that was tipped over," said Zayas. "DeLaHunt and I jumped out of our vehicle and took off running towards the car."

As they approached the car, they noticed fluids leaking from the engine and spilling out around the sides of the vehicle. Inside, Kim, Yeon-soo, a professor of physical education at Seoul National University, was trapped in her seat with a cut over her right eye. She was also eight months pregnant and feared her baby was hurt.

"When I got to the windshield, I looked into the vehicle and saw that

the woman was pregnant," said DeLaHunt. "I saw her eyes and that had concerned me most. Her eyes said everything, and they were saying with a lot of sincerity, 'please get me out of here.' I'll never forget that sight."

To the Soldiers, it was obvious Kim needed medical attention as soon as possible.

"We told her to shut off the car and then to unlock the doors so that we could have been able to get into the vehicle," said Zayas.

After the door was opened, DeLaHunt began to move Kim, being careful of her eye and the possibility of a neck injury. He went to use his BDU top to support her neck, but Kim refused and said she just wanted out. DeLaHunt picked her up and handed her to Zayas.

"They kept asking me if I was okay, and I told them I was okay," Kim recounted. "They were worried about my baby and me."

"We placed her on the ground to relax but within a couple of minutes she was up walking again, said Zayas. I guess she wanted to walk away from the accident on her own."

DeLaHunt pleaded with Kim to lie down and relax until the ambu-

lance arrived but she said she was fine and kept asking for information about the Soldiers.

"She kept saying 'Thank you, thank you' and wanted to know our names or if we had a business card," said DeLaHunt. "It's interesting, because our faces were covered in camouflage and she had no clue who we were. She knew we were Soldiers but that was about it."

As the paramedics arrived, DeLaHunt handed Kim a few belongings they had gathered from her car and helped load her into the ambulance.

"I put my hand on her stomach and asked, 'baby okay?' and she said 'baby okay,'" said DeLaHunt. "She kept saying thank you, and we told her to take care of the baby."

Zayas described the whole process as an adrenaline rush.

"We're not medics, but we had to get her out of there," he said. "It became second nature; it just happened all at once with no pause."

Kim later checked out of the hospital in good condition and on May 7, invited her rescuers to dinner to thank them.

Shortly before their dinner, Kim recalled the accident.

"I was adjusting the radio and I don't know why, but my car began going right, left, right, left," said Kim. "Then I hit the median beams. My car flipped over and another car hit my car."

Zayas and DeLaHunt said their only concern was to see Kim and the baby healthy.

"I think of it as being part of the job, but I didn't do it because I was a Soldier," said Zayas. "If my wife were in a car accident, I would want someone to help no matter who they are or where they're from."

"We did something that I hope anyone would've done if it were someone I loved, added DeLaHunt. Everybody belongs to somebody."

While Zayas and DeLaHunt insist they're not heroes, to Kim, their quick response and selfless actions meant something much more.

"They are my lifesaver and my baby saver," said Kim. "I can't thank them enough for what they have done."



# Vigilant Eyes on F

## JSA Soldiers continu

Story & photos by Spc. Daniel J. Love  
*Staff writer*

**F**or over 50 years, North Korea and South Korea have been separated by a winding line of bunkers and barbed wire manned by highly trained armed forces in a constant face-off.

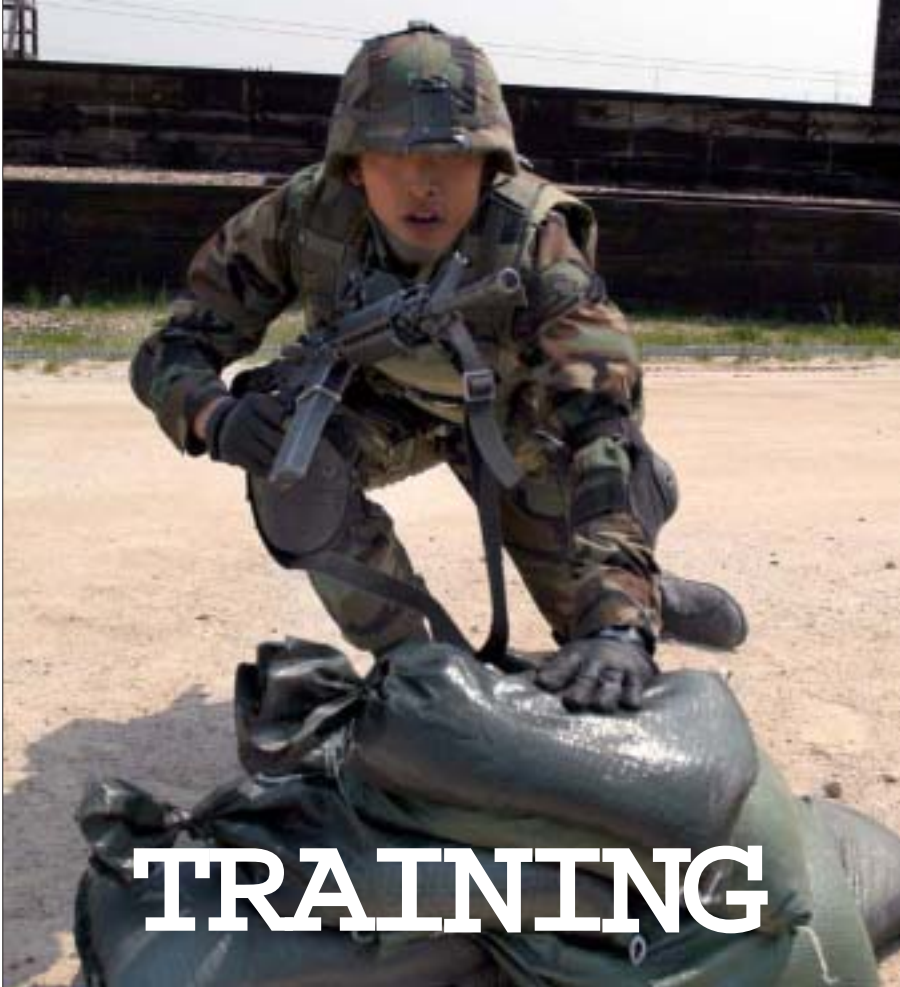
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# Freedom's Frontier

## The 50-year tradition





An UNCSB-JSA Soldier participates in a stress-fire exercise at one of Camp Bonafas' many ranges.

"There's an old saying that the more you sweat in training, the less you bleed in battle."

*Cpt. Keith E. Hager, UNC-JSA HHC executive officer*



A UNCSB-JSA Soldier low-crawls during a stress fire exercise. "First they run, then they PT, then they shoot," said 1st Lt. Lee, Dong-chan, platoon executive officer.



UNCSB-JSA military police conduct close combat sidearm training. They also practiced using their primary weapons.

seamlessly to work long hours with little relief. The unit consists of 60 percent ROK and 40 percent U.S. forces.

"A lot of people think that there's two units, a U.S. side and a ROK side, but there's not," said Lt. Col. Matthew T. Margotta, United



Nations Command Security Battalion commander. “We have one battalion that incorporates not only U.S. customs and traditions but also ROK Army customs and traditions. The Soldiers here associate themselves with the battalion more than they do with either of the armies.”

Soldiers of the JSA have a variety of mission requirements with many job titles and responsibilities. They are required to be in top physical condition, and be experts not only in their fields, but also with their weapons.

“All of the Soldiers are hand-selected for service up here,” said Margotta. “It is an elite unit with a special mission. The unit has a very proud history of securing the JSA, the village of Taesongdong, and the U.S. portion of the demilitarized zone.”

One constant at the JSA, no matter the squad, company or

platoon, is training. The training is as relentless as it is important, and the Soldiers must be able to perform to standard to remain in the unit.

“If the KPA (Korean People’s Army) decide one day to start an incident in the JSA or test us, and they are met with swift, overwhelming force by well trained soldiers who can move, communicate and hit everything they aim at, they will likely decide quickly it’s a bad idea and return home,” said Hager. “If they find us to be soft and easily defeated, there’s a chance for a larger incident or continued operations.”

Two forms of training that take place daily at the JSA are physical training in the morning and weapons proficiency during the day. At any time during the day and sometimes at night, someone is conducting

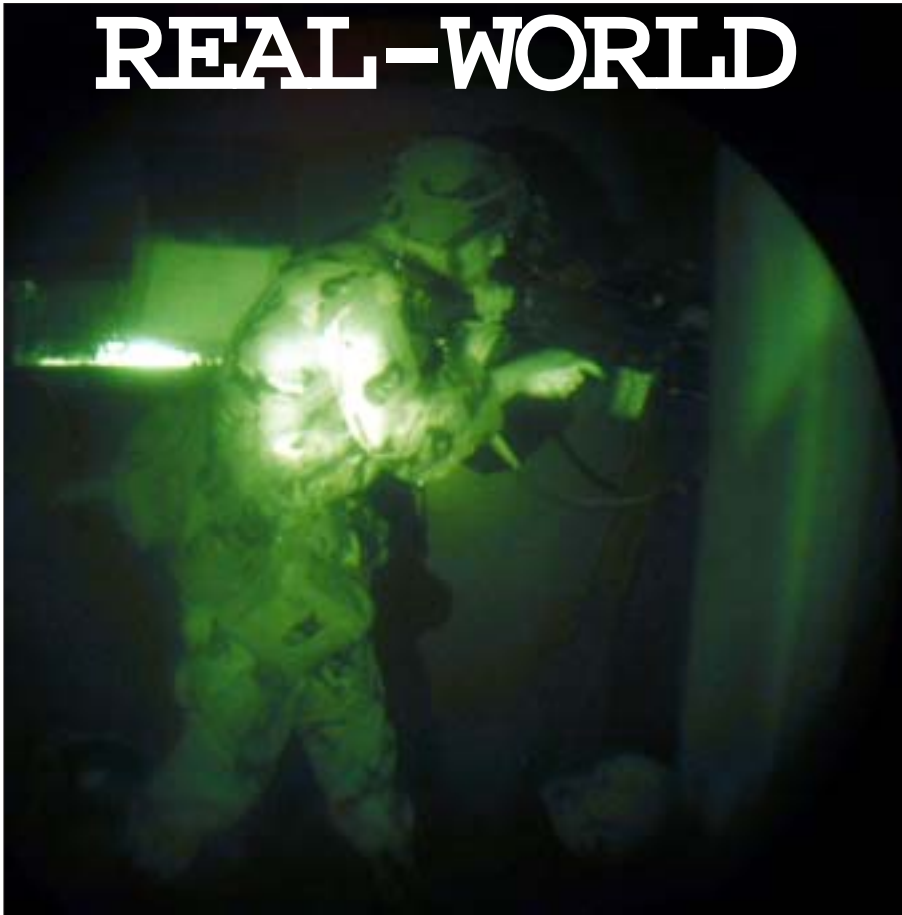


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Cpl. Kang, Bong-han, a Taesongdong guard, stands watch over a farmer in a farm area bordering the MDL. Kang said that KPA soldiers have tried to initiate conversation with him.

## REAL-WORLD



A scout platoon Soldier watches his sector during a late-night alert. The scouts often stay up all night, getting little or no sleep.



A UNCSB-JSA Soldier puts on his “war paint” in his barracks room at Camp Bonifas shortly before going on a night patrol inside the DMZ.



Cpl. Kim, Taek-hyun



Pfc. Yum, Tae-sung



Pfc. Yum, Tae-sung

**F**rom April 26-30, KATUSA-U.S. Soldier Friendship week was held across the peninsula. The week encompassed a variety of sports, games and cultural events designed to inspire and foster the relationship between KATUSA and U.S. Soldiers.



*- Together we stand -*



Pfc. Yum, Tae-sung



Cpl. Kim, Taek-hyun





Pvt. Michael Noggle



Cpl. Kim, Taek-hyun

U.S. Soldier  
04  
Ship Week



Pfc. Yum, Tae-sung



Pfc. Yum, Tae-sung



Cpl. Kim, Taek-hyun

# Preparing for the worst

## 1-52nd Avn Soldiers train for inclement weather

**Story & photos by**  
**Spc. Daniel J. Love**  
*Staff writer*

**W**ith Korea's potential for severe weather, the peninsula's Soldiers must be prepared to protect their equipment at a moments notice.

The Soldiers of the 1st Battalion,

The unit didn't take the time to fold and store every aircraft they had, as they only needed to see how much space each UH-60 took.

They folded a representative number and took measurements based on how close they were to each other and the hangar walls.

"We'll need to get a total of 27 aircraft into one hangar," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Marc A. Latimer, the production control officer. "To do that we'll fold the main rotor blades and moved them into here nose to tail, tail to nose, allowing us

"Typhoons can have sustained winds well over 100 miles an hour," said Kain. "These aircraft are relatively fragile, they're somewhat thin skinned. Flying debris could destroy the sheet metal on the rotor blades, causing many thousands of dollars in damage to each aircraft."

The aircraft were put into three hangars; two soft clamshell hangars and one regular solid hangar. Kain calculated that the Soldiers could get the fleet folded and stored in eight hours or less.

"We would try to give warning orders to the Soldiers in advance, said Kain. "We'll know about a tropical storm or typhoon about 72 hours in advance, and we'd issue a warning order about 48 hours prior to when we predict the storm would hit."

The Soldiers finished the training in a few hours, despite the fact that some were inexperienced in folding rotors.

"We have good teams and good crews who have been training all week over and over again to get the folding and maneuvering



**First, the rotor blades are folded back.**

52nd Aviation Regiment demonstrated that ability during a severe weather plan rehearsal at K-16 May 1.

Nearly 150 Soldiers carefully folded and stored 10 UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters inside hangars.

"In the event of a monsoon, a typhoon or other weather abnormality that might damage the aircraft, we plan to hangar as many aircraft as possible," said Maj. Joel Kain, the 1-52nd Aviation flight operations officer in charge. "We're training our crew chiefs and some of the young officers and NCOs on the process of folding the blades, because not everyone sees it. It's not something you do on a normal basis."



**The UH-64 is then taxied along the runway...**

to pack all of our aircraft inside the hangar, compactly as possible."

While the UH-60 is made to be robust, it isn't made to withstand some of the extreme weather that occurs in Korea.



**...where it is stowed safely inside one of the hangars, no longer exposed to the elements.**

correctly," said Latimer. "We're working together as a team to get these aircraft inside quickly."





**Sgts. Shim, Kyu-cheol and Lee, Han-guk, water purification specialists with the ROK 5th Armor Brigade Water Platoon, unwrap a hose while practicing the use of U.S. water purification equipment.**

## Water platoon shares skills with ROK counterparts

**Story & photo by Spc. Daniel J. Love**  
Staff Writer

**I**n a time of war, successful armies sweat the details when dealing even with the simplest necessities, such as water.

The 305th Quartermaster Co. and Republic of Korea Army 5th Armor Brigade water platoons trained with reverse osmosis water purification equipment Apr. 21 at Dagmar North training site to be prepared to keep peninsula forces hydrated during times of contingency.

The training, held during the annual ROWPU Rodeo water purification competition, involved training ROK soldiers to use the standard U.S. 600 gallon-per-hour ROWPU unit.

"They were instructed on assisting in hooking up the equipment and producing purified water for consumption," said 2nd Lt. Melony L. Baker, a transportation officer with the 498th Corps Support Battalion. "This is the only way that the Army has certified to purify water for consumption."

The training site, certified by USFK, is located on the rocky shore of the Imjin River. The Soldiers used long tubes attached to pumps to draw water from the river

into the water purification unit's body.

"This site was chosen for this training because the river is at a steady flow, which allows water to flow freely through," said Baker. "It is kind of rocky but we use certain strainers that keep rocks, sticks and fish out."

The water goes from the ROWPU units to units who need it, but isn't used only for drinking.

"This water goes to laundry and bath units, DFACs, and anyone who needs water for drinking," said Baker. "This would be transported on a semi-mounted fabric tank, which holds 3000 gallons of water."

ROK soldiers in attendance learned the basics of using their American counterparts' water purification equipment.

"The U.S. equipment is different from the ROK army's equipment," said Cpl. Kang, Hyeong-man, a water purification specialist with the 5th Armor Brigade water platoon. "We can learn a lot from training on new equipment."

With the help of hands on training and KATUSA translation, the ROK Soldiers were able to set up and

**see ROWPU, Page 18**

# Underground Convenience

# A Seoul subway

Many people living in Seoul or visiting the vast metropolis will focus on a few key locations that are popular with tourists for a good reason. Gyeongbok palace, Itaewon, and Namsan (Seoul) Tower are destinations worthy of a visit, but Seoul also has some hidden gems, often neglected by the time constrained tourist. These are only a few: those with time can also visit Myeongdong, Namdaemun Market, Jongno, and the often neglected Sindangdong.

By Spc. Daniel Love  
Staff writer

*Off the beaten*

## How to get there:

Using Seoul's subway system, travellers can get anywhere in the city. Seoul's metro system consists of 8 lines, which cover the main city and many surrounding towns. Yongsan Army Garrison is close to 3 stations. Ichon Station is outside of the southern edge of Southpost, while Samgagji almost touches the Korean War Museum. Head right outside gate 3 on main post to get to Noksapyeong station.

Both Changdeokgung or Insadong, are on line 3. Insadong is at Anguk station, and Changdeokgung is at Jongno Sam(3) ga. The COEX mall is at Samseong Station on line 2, the green line.



Spc. Daniel Love

## COEX Mall

The COEX Mall, located under the South Korean World Trade Center, is a favorite place of Seoul's youth. There are hundreds of shops and restaurants, as well as a movie theater with 17 screens and a full-sized aquarium with a shark tank, almost all underground. Many tourists visit the COEX Mall, and most of the shopkeepers speak english. On the average weekday, as many as 100,000 people visit the mall, while many more visitors on the weekend can make it very crowded.



Spc. Daniel Love





day

path...



...out of the ordinary



Pvt. Michael Noggle



Pvt. Michael Noggle



Pvt. Michael Noggle



Sp. Daniel Love

## Changdeokgung

Neighbor to the biggest palace in Seoul, Gyeongbokgung, Changdeok palace is often overlooked. However, with its peaceful secret garden and winding pathways, a tour along the less crowded trails of the palace is an experience that can make a visitor feel like city life is distant.

## Insadong

Insadong, Seoul's art and culture district, is found in a historic area, in the oldest part of Seoul. Artists and craftsmen flock to Insadong, especially on the weekends. Shopfronts in Insadong are more often labeled in Hangul than in English, because of pressure to keep traditional Korean style in the area. Galleries lining the streets feature paintings from local and foreign artists, as well as pottery, antiques and artistic housewares. Insadong is appreciated by people of all ages, because of its diversity.

Some Soldiers even had the opportunity to be recognized for their efforts towards maintenance excellence.

"It feels great to be recognized for simply doing your job," said Pfc. Alexandria N. Jordan, a Soldier who received an Army Accommodation Medal for her contributions in preparation for AAME.

Not only does the 501st plan on having the same results in next year's competition, but the 3rd MI Battalion and 532nd MI Battalion will be representing the Army in the Department of Defense level competition.

Lt. Gen. Charles C. Campbell, 8th U.S. Army commander, recognized the outstanding achievement of the

brigade on Apr. 16 by presenting each unit with a signed 3-star letter of recognition, to congratulate the leaders and Soldiers on this memorable accomplishment.

Unit representatives returned to INSCOM and Department of the Army Headquarters June 10 to 12 to be recognized as the best in the Army.

"This has been an extraordinary feat on behalf of the brigade," said Lt. Col. Scott W. Levin, 501<sup>st</sup> MI Brigade deputy commander. "From the Maintenance Terrain Walk to the actual inspection, we learned so much this year. Compared to what we take with us, the recognition is all just an added bonus."

## JSA Continued from Page 11

weapons training at one of the JSA ranges.

"There's an old saying that the more you sweat in training, the less you bleed in battle," said Hager. "Our training produces tough, competent and confident Soldiers who can think independently and act accordingly to win in any situation. That's why it's so tough, so frequent, and as realistic as possible."

Although the JSA Soldiers train frequently, they don't get very frequent breaks. They spend many nights patrolling the DMZ, and don't get weekends off.

"The battalion never has an off-day," said Margotta. "It's operational 365-days-a-year, 24-hours-a-day. Christmas looks no different than a Tuesday in the summer, with regards to security operations. The Soldiers are always on duty."

With JSA duty's demanding requirements, the Soldiers don't get much time to themselves.

"We work 20 days straight," said Cpl. Stuart N. Sword, a team leader with the JSA Scout platoon. "A lot of

the guys only get two or three hours of sleep at night, then they start another day. We spend 10 days at Observation Post Ouellette, five days on quick reaction force, five days in training, and then we get four days off."

U.S. Soldiers of the JSA Scout platoon are stationed in the farthest north military installation, OP Ouellette. The troops here are on the edge of the military demarcation line, almost touching North Korea. They eat, sleep and live with loaded weapons, constantly prepared for battle in 60 seconds or less.

"I like the whole real world deal," said Pvt. David A. Mauk, an infantryman with the scout platoon. We do real combat patrols. We carry live rounds. Korea depends on us if the enemy decides to do something."

While OP Ouellette is too small for running or PT formations, the Soldiers can work out in the Ranger Ivey mini-gym. Chow is delivered three times a day from the dining facility at Camp Bonifas.

"We're the best platoon on the

peninsula; everyone in our platoon is an expert at their weapon," said Sword. "Everyone is handpicked to be here. If you come here and you don't have the muster, you go away. In the JSA Scout platoon, you have to perform to standard."

The platoon is made up of U.S. Soldiers, augmented by four KATUSAs. The scouts are quick to mention OP Ouellette stands directly between Panmunjeom and the rest of South Korea.

"My mom worries, but both of my parents are very proud that I can be here," said Pfc. Baek, Sung-min, a JSA scout platoon KATUSA who volunteered to join the scout platoon. "There (have) been only nine KATUSA scouts in history. I could be in Yongsan and go home every weekend and holiday, but here I can do my best."

The scouts and the other platoons of the JSA carry on a tradition of excellence. JSA warriors have historically and presently been elite, hand picked defenders of freedom, toeing the line, in front of them all.

## ROWPU Continued from Page 15

use the U.S. ROWPU unit.

"We have good KATUSAs here who translate anything we say," said Pfc. Raymond L. Pippen, a petroleum, oil and lubricants specialist working with the water purification company. "We can learn from the ROK soldiers actions more than their words, though, because we see them using the equipment correctly after we show them how."

Neither of the attending country's water purification

units had used each other's equipment before the training. The U.S. ROWPU unit made plans to learn how to use their counterpart's tools of the trade in the months to come.

"This is a different type of equipment that they're not used to training on that they want to get some hands-on experience with," said Staff Sgt. Sonja D. White-Pena, section NCOIC. "In the event of war, it won't be a totally new experience if we use theirs and they use ours."





# Final Frame



Soldiers of JSA headquarters and headquarters company increase speed as they near Camp Bonifas during morning physical training May 6. Photo by Spc. Daniel Love